

CORRESPONDENCE

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THE NATIONALIST VIEW

To the Editor: Inasmuch as the Communist leaders themselves have announced for all the world to hear that the ultimate Communist objective is that of world conquest, willingness on the part of the Communists to negotiate is no indication that they are ready to relinquish that objective. In expressing the hope in your editorial "This Talk of Munich" (*The Reporter*, October 2) that the Warsaw parleys would proceed in earnest and that their aim would be not just a cease-fire but peace, you make the unwarranted assumption that the aim of the parties to the talks is one and the same, and that the Communists, whose chief aim is to make Communism "a world system," are willing to deviate from that objective in the interest of peace.

In an article in the same issue, "Caught in a Trap of Our Own Making," Chalmers M. Roberts claimed that "Chiang's interest in the islands is and always has been as stepping stones for his return to the mainland." The truth is that the value of the offshore islands lies in the fact that they serve primarily as eyes in the defense of Taiwan and the Pescadores. Once they are lost to the Peiping regime, the Communists would then be free to assemble in the ports of Amoy and Foochow the necessary supplies, troops, and shipping for the invasion of Taiwan. The continued possession of the offshore islands by the Republic of China may not deter the Communists from attempting the invasion of Taiwan, but it does mean that they will have to pick as their staging areas suitable harbors to the north or south, thus exposing themselves to air and naval interception over a much wider area.

As Admiral Burke pointed out in an interview with Robert J. Donovan, chief of the New York *Herald Tribune* Washington Bureau, on October 4, the offshore islands are only as important as the Communists make them. The real problem, in his opinion, is not the offshore islands, because even after the problem of the offshore islands is solved, trouble is likely to break out in Burma, Laos, Indonesia, Vietnam, Taiwan, the Philippines, or even in Africa or the Middle East.

In his article "Chiang's Shadow over Warsaw," following Mr. Roberts's, O. Edmund Clubb said: "Our Nationalist allies agree with the Communists that the dispute between them is civil war." Our view is and always has been that the war in China, far from being a civil war, was instigated, supported, and directed by Soviet Russia, which has made no secret of the fact that the conquest of China is essential to the achievement of the ultimate Communist objective of making Communism "a world system."

Mr. Clubb further claimed that the anti-American riots of May, 1957, at Taipei were staged for the express purpose of "dramatizing Nationalist dissatisfaction with our policy." According to the findings of a special committee appointed to investigate into the incident, the fact was established that the incident, far from being premeditated, began as a peaceful and spontaneous protest against what was considered by a substantial section of the population as a miscarriage of justice in the acquittal of U.S. Army Sergeant Reynolds by the U.S. court-martial in the shooting of a Chinese citizen, and that the unruly elements among the crowd succeeded in turning the peaceful demonstration into mob violence.

You will recall that the government of the Republic of China promptly expressed its deep regret to the U.S. government over the incident and assumed full responsibility for the repair of the damaged property. Those who had been apprehended by the police and found guilty were sentenced to prison.

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